

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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S E C R E T USNATO 3115

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: NATO TREATMENT OF OPTION III

REF: A) LONDON 8422; B) STATE 91705; C) STATE 119269; D) USNATO 3075

DTG 031235Z JUNE

1. MISSION WELCOMES LONDON'S DEMARCHE REPORTED REF A, WHICH MAKES CLEAR THAT POLICY LEVEL IN HMG IS NOT WEDDED TO USE OF MBFR WORKING GROUP FOR OPTION III. UK AGREEMENT NOT TO ACTIVATE WG WOULD ASSIST IN EXPEDITIOUS NATO CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III.

2. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WASHINGTON COMMENT ON THE KILICK-TICKELL SUGGESTION TO USE AN EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF SPC FOR MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF OPTION III SINCE THIS MAY BE THE UK COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL OF THE SPC REINFORCED BY EXPERTS.

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IF THE U.S. NEEDS TO ACCOMMODATE IN SOME WAY THE UK INTEREST IN FULL ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY-TECHNICAL ISSUES, IT WOULD BETTER SERVE U.S. OBJECTIVES TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN MEETINGS OF THE REINFORCED SPC AS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO MILITARY-TECHNICAL ISSUES, RATHER THAN TO CREATE A SEPARATE, EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE TO REPORT TO THE SPC ON MILITARY-TECHNICAL ISSUES.

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4. ONE U.S. OBJECTIVE ON THE HANDLING OF OPTION III HAS BEEN TO KEEP THE FOCUS ON THE CENTRAL NEGOTIATING AND POLICY ISSUES, BY CONFINING DISCUSSIONS TO POLICY ORIENTED FORUMS, I.E. THE NAC, AND THE SPC ATTENDED BY EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS (PARA 3, REF B).

THE UK IDEA WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, SEPARATE OUT THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL QUESTIONS INTO A DISTINCT EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE, WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO WG, AND HAVE SAME DRAWBACKS.

5. A SECOND U.S. OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO AVOID A WRITTEN, ALLIED MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDY, IN ORDER TO AVOID SHIFTING ATTENTION AWAY FROM POLICY ISSUES TO THE DRAFTING OF THE STUDY (PARA 2, REF C). HOWEVER, AN EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SPC WOULD HAVE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES IN THE PARENT BODY, AND THIS WOULD APPEAR TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE FOR A WRITTEN REPORT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON VIEWS ON UK SUGGESTION RE EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF SPC, AS WELL AS ANY FURTHER COMMENT WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO MAKE ON PROCEDURE. SPC COULD MEET THE DAY AFTER OPTION III IS INTRODUCED INTO NAC (REF D), AND PROCEDURE WILL BE THE MAJOR ISSUE AT THAT MEETING. BRUCE

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